abundance of ♀ s over the ♂ s. I am sure last season (1913) I shall never forget; the females were so abundant that they simply came in droves. I did count the number taken with one sweep of the net, it was over 50, and not a male amongst them, but there were three ab. *semisyngrapha*, no doubt they were taken for males, for they were often chased by a goodly number of ordinary females. I could never understand what became of the males, they seemed almost absent. When one looks back at past seasons on this same spot, almost the same conditions prevailed, there was certainly a great preponderance of females over the males, the males appearing extremely few compared with those taken from other localities. This female preponderance has occurred for a number of years, but in particular 1913 seemed to be an extraordinary season for this femaleness. This season (1914) was nothing compared to it, but the females were in great abundance, the males were more in evidence than I have seen them before from Herts. They vary so little that I have not seen a really good aberration from here. One of my best I took this year, it was an albino ♂, quite a whitish example. This season was quite a contrast to that of 1913, when I counted 25 collectors during my stay all with the *semisyngrapha* fever, this year all seemed peace and quiet, very few collectors being seen. I ran down during the first days of the "war," when railway traffic was partially held up, having to wait long hours to get through, but once on the spot the war was quite forgotten till my return, when I had much the same treat. I was able, however, to capture six asymmetrical specimens and two females (normal size) with deep dashes of blue on wings, in one on the right forewing and in the other on the left. I hear several of this kind were taken this year, so it seems as if there is still another side issue appearing in *A. coridon*. No doubt there seems to exist a certain amount of hermaphroditism in these asymmetrical females, and one awaits for further explanations in making clear this mystery. I look forward to 1915 with an extra amount of renewed energy to cure this "fit of the blues."

Some notes on the Genera Platyphora, Verrall, and Aenigmatias, Meinert, and a species new to Britain.

By HORACE DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.E.S.

Platyphora, Verrall, 1877 = ♂ ; *Aenigmatias*, Meinert, 1890 = ♀ .

PLATYPHORA LUBBOCKI, Verrall.

Platyphora lubbocki, Verrall, "Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool.," **13**, 260 (1877)[1]. *Aenigmatias blattoides*, Meinert, "Ent. Medel," **2**, 212-27 (1890)[2]. *Platyphora lubbocki*, Wasmann, "Krit. Ver. Myr. Ter. Art.," 174 (1894)[3]. *Aenigmatias blattoides*, Wasmann, "Krit. Ver. Myr. Ter. Art.," 175 (1894)[4]; "Biol. Centralb.," **28**, 728 (1908)[5]. *Platyphora lubbocki*, Collin, "Proc. Ent. Soc. Lond.," *1904*, lxix.[6]; Malloch, "Ann. Scot. Nat. Hist.," *1910*, 17[7]; Collin, "Ent. Mo. Mag.," **49**, 174, Plt. 3, fig. 3 (1913)[8]; Donisthorpe, "Proc. Ent. Soc. Lond.," 1913, lxxvi.[9] *Aenigmatias blattoides*, Donisthorpe, "Proc. Ent. Soc. Lond.," 1913, lxxvi.[10]; "Ent. Rec.," **25**, 277-78 (1913).[11] *Platyphora lubbocki*, Donisthorpe, "Ent. Rec.," **25**, 277 (1913)[12]; H. Schmitz, "Jaarb. Nat. Hist. Genoots. Limburg," *1913*, 123.[13] *Aenigmatias blattoides*, H. Schmitz, "Jaarb. Nat. Hist. Genoots. Limburg," *1913*, 124[14]; "Zool. Jahrb.," 541-44 (1914).[15]

In 1877 Verrall described a fly, bred in one of Lord Avebury's observation nests, under the name of *Platyphora lubbocki*.[1] This

specimen was unfortunately lost, and the species was never found again until July 6th, 1901, when Dr. Wood captured a specimen in Stoke Wood, Herefordshire,[6] and subsequently J. J. F. X. King took another in the New Forest.[7] It will thus be seen that during all this time the host, or hosts, of this parasitic Dipteron remained unknown. On July 11th, 1913, I captured a specimen which was running about in my large *F. sanguinea* observation nest[8], and as I had kept this colony in captivity for four years, the fly must have bred out from *F. fusca* cocoons, of which large numbers had been given to the ants to bring up as slaves. On July 4th, 1914, I captured a specimen in some sphagnum from a *F. picea* nest from the New Forest, and on July 12th I observed a specimen in the very large glass bowl which contained my *F. picea* observation nest, also from the New Forest. On July 23rd, 1914, I found a number of small red Dipterous pupæ in nests of *F. picea* in the New Forest, these I brought home with more of the ants, and introduced some into my observation nest and others into tins containing earth and a few of the ants. July 29th another was captured in the bowl, and on July 31st one hatched out in one of the tins. Before leaving town I took (the bowl) my large observation nest to the British Museum, where Mr. Edwards kindly took charge of it, and he made the following captures in it: August 1st, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 17th; on 18th another was observed, and on September 10th the last specimen to hatch out was captured. On August 11th a specimen hatched from one of the red pupæ, some of which I had isolated in a small plaster nest and taken away with me.

Aenigmatias blattoides, Mein.

Meinert described this aberrant apterous Phorid in 1890 from a specimen he had taken in a nest of *F. fusca* in Denmark[2] (but for some unknown reason he suggested it might be associated with the nests of mice), and a second example exists in the Copenhagen Museum, also taken by him.

In 1898 Mik suggested that *Aenigmatias* might be the female of *Platyphora*, but he gives no reasons for this opinion ["Wien. Ent. Zeitschr.," **17**, 204 (1898)].

In 1908 Wasmann, at Luxemburg, found a specimen in an observation nest of *F. exsecta* into which he had introduced a number of *F. fusca* cocoons; and he obtained a second specimen, also at Luxemburg, from *fusca* cocoons.[5]

On July 21st, 1913, I captured a specimen in a nest of *F. fusca* under a stone at Nethy Bridge, in Inverness-shire[11]—this H. Schmitz has since named var. *highlandica*.[15]

On July 14th, 1914, I captured a specimen in my observation nest of *F. picea* before mentioned, and on July 29th and 30th specimens hatched out in the tins before mentioned. On August 10th a specimen hatched from the Dipterous pupæ before mentioned, isolated in a small plaster nest; and on August 13th Edwards found a specimen running on the sphagnum in the bowl.

This certainly seems to prove that *P. lubbocki* is the male of *A. blattoides*. The hosts are *Formica fusca* and *F. picea*, and in the case of the latter the fly larvæ must have emerged from the cocoon before they pupated.

Platyphora dorni, Enderlein.

Oniscomyia dorni, Enderlein, "Zool. Jahr.," **27**, 145-56 (1908)[1]. *Aenigmatias blattoides*, Wasmann, "Biol. Centralb.," **28**, 729 (1908)[2] [in part]. *Platyphora lubbocki*, Donisthorpe, "Proc. Ent. Soc. Lond.," 1913, lxxvi.[3] [in part]: "Ent. Rec." **25**, 277 (1913)[4] [in part]. *Aenigmatias dorni*, H. Schmitz, "Jaar. Nat. Hist. Genoots. Limburg," *1913*, 124[5]; "Zool. Jahr.," **37**, 544-48 (1914)[6].

On August 18th, 1907, Enderlein described an apterous Phorid found in a nest of *Polyergus rufescens* (the Amazon Ant) at Zeyrn, near Kronals in Oberfranken under the name of *Oniscomyia dorni*[1]: but as pointed out by Schmitz *Oniscomyia* is a synonym of *Aenigmatias*[5].

Polyergus possesses no myrmecophiles of its own; this specimen was therefore parasitic on the slaves of the "Amazons," the slave species was not noted, but from what follows they were probably *F. rufibarbis*.

On July 17th, 1902, Wasmann found a specimen in an observation nest of *F. rufibarbis* at Luxemburg, on July 9th, 1904, he captured another in a nest of *F. rufibarbis* in a garden at Luxemburg, and on July 31st, 1905, he found a third in a nest of *F. rufibarbis* in this garden[2]. On July 26th, 1913, I captured a specimen of a *Platyphora*, which differs considerably from *P. lubbocki*, in my *F. sanguinea* observation nest[3]; this specimen Schmitz considers is probably the unknown male of *A. dorni*. As my *sanguinea* nest had been supplied with large numbers of *F. rufibarbis* cocoons from Weybridge, as well as the *F. fusca* cocoons before mentioned, the *Platyphora* most probably bred out from the former.

Edwards has kindly called my attention to the differences between *Platyphora lubbocki* from my *F. picea* nest (which are all very constant) and this specimen. These may be tabulated as follows:—

P. lubbocki.	*P. dorni.*
1. Front tibiæ and tarsi much thickened.	1. Front tibiæ and tarsi very little thickened.
2. Mid and hind femora yellow on basal ½ to ⅔.	2. Mid and hind femora all black.
3. Second thick vein with an indistinct thin branch at tip.	3. Second thick vein divided distinctly into two equal branches at tip.
4. Hypopygium small, black.	4. Hypopygium large, yellow.

Should this not be the male of *P. dorni*, End., it is a new species of *Platyphora*, and in any case it is new to the British fauna.

CURRENT NOTES AND SHORT NOTICES.

In the August No. of the *Ent. Mo. Mag.*, Comm. J. J. Walker adds a new genus and species of Coleoptera to the British list, in the Staphylinid, *Hygropora cunctans*, which he took in a damp place on the open heath near Brockenhurst while in company with Dr. Sharp. Mr. E. E. Green also introduces a new species to the British list and also to science in the Coccid, *Kuwania britannica*, which was found on birch at Camberley, a birch, pine and heather country. The species is figured in detail.

Messrs. Watkins and Doncaster have sent us their new *Label List of British Butterflies and Moths*, with Latin-English names. The list comprises the Macrolepidoptera and is well and clearly printed, and allowance for sufficient margin is made. This publication should